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For Immediate Release:
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Billie C. Scruse, Press Secretary

STATEMENT FROM MAYOR EDDIE A. PEREZ CONCERNING POLICE CHIEF PATRICK J. HARNETT

Hartford Mayor Eddie A. Perez released a statement today to clarify some issues that have caused some confusion in the press concerning Police Chief Patrick J. Harnett:

“First, we are very lucky to have an experienced law enforcement professional like Chief Harnett at the helm of the police department. He has been moving rapidly to institute long overdue change at the department. He has repeatedly expressed to me that he is here to complete the mission of making our city safer. He has my full support and will remain on the job as long as I require.

Second, the Police Officers Standards and Training Council **has not** issued a formal reply to our request for certification of Chief Harnett as a municipal police officer. Chief Harnett has nearly four decades of successful law enforcement experience and is a graduate of the NYPD Police Academy, the NY Transit Police Academy, the FBI Academy and the Columbia University Institute of Police Management.

I have simply asked that POSTC evaluate his credentials and perform its duty required by law to **“certify any applicant who presents evidence of satisfactory completion of a program or course of instruction in another state equivalent in content and quality to that required in this state, provided he passes an examination or evaluation as required by the council.”**(Sec. 7-294d(b)).

There are very few law enforcement officers in the state with Chief Harnett's credentials and experience; we look forward to working with POSTC to develop a reasonable course of training to attain certification.

Chief Harnett has made tremendous progress in the short time he has been here. Violent crime continues to drop and we are making real headway on community policing. The Chief has my full support and will remain on duty until we accomplish the mission of making Hartford a safer city for its residents.”